Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

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LRB Nu	mber 17-359	2/1	Introduction	n Number	SB-308				
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Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations									
GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS									
Agency/P	repared By	1	Authorized Signatu	ire		Date			
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 7/10/2017

LRB Number 17-3592/1	Introduction Number	SB-308	Estimate Type	Original					
Description									
patronizing a prostitute and providing a criminal penalty									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal and certain commitment proceedings. The SPD plays a critical role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

This bill increases the penalty for the crime of patronizing a prostitute from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class I felony if the person has been previously convicted of that crime at least two times. Under the bill, a first or second violation remains a Class A misdemeanor.

It is possible that given the increased penalties, the SPD will see an increase in the difficulty of cases in which it provides representation for the felony penalty. We are unable, however, to quantify the increase in costs that might occur due to the provisions in the bill and how many people would meet the eligibility requirements for SPD services. The SPD's average cost to provide representation with a private bar attorney in a felony case was \$512.17 in fiscal year 2016. The average cost for a misdemeanor case in fiscal year 2016 was \$242.06. The unquantifiable increase in costs under this bill is a result of the \$270.11 difference between those two penalty class case types.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications